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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/648,502	08/25/2000	Mark E. Redding	230074.0230	5521

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EXAMINER

KANG, PAUL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2141

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/648,502

Applicant(s)

REDDING, ET AL

Examiner

Paul H Kang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2.3</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 and 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber et al., US Pat. No. 5,390,297 in view of Coley et al., US Pat. No. 5,790,664.

2. As to claim 1, Barber teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Barber teaches a system and method for managing licenses for protected software on a communication network, the system (Barber, col. 2, lines 3-54) comprising:

at least one client computer capable of being coupled to the communication network for requesting an authorization to use the protected software and for storing a commuter authorization lifetime representing a time period for which the commuter authorization is valid (Barber, col. 2, lines 3-54 and col. 5, lines 31-67 and col. 6, line 1 – col. 7, line 64); and

at least one license server coupled to the communication network, each license server programmed for managing a distribution of allocations to use the protected software and at least one license server programmed for granting an authorization in response to a request for an authorization (Barber, col. 2, lines 3-54 and col. 5, lines 31-67 and col. 6, line 1 – col. 7, line 64).

However, Barber does not explicitly teach said authorization is a commuter authorization, enabling use of software while coupled or decoupled from the network. In the same field of endeavor, Coley teaches a software licensing system wherein after a commuter authorization is

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communicated from a granting license server to a requesting client computer, the requesting client computer may use the protected software while coupled to or decoupled from the communication network until the commuter authorization lifetime expires (Coley, col. 4, line 1 – col. 5, line 30 and col. 8, line 54 – col. 9, line 61).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the use of software while coupled or decoupled from the network, as taught by Coley, into the system of Barber for the purpose of enhancing flexibility and convenience of software use.

3. As to claim 3, Barber-Coley teaches the system wherein the at least one license server further programmed for granting a commuter authorization to the requesting client computer and decrementing a count of available allocations only if there is an available allocation in the at least one license server (Barber, col. 2, lines 3-54 and col. 5, lines 31-67).

4. The method steps of claim 11 are a combination of the apparatus of claims 1 and 3, and have similar limitations except in method steps; therefore, claim 11 is rejected under the same rationale.

5. As to claims 2 and 12, Barber-Coley teach a system and method comprising while the requesting client computer maintains a valid commuter authorization, the requesting client computer may open the protected software multiple times, including simultaneous instantiations of the protected software (Barber, col. 2, lines 3-54 and col. 5, lines 31-67 and col. 6, line 1 – col.

7, line 64; and Coley, col. 4, line 1 – col. 5, line 30 and col. 8, line 54 – col. 9, line 61).

6. As to claims 4 and 13, Barber-Coley teach a system and method wherein the requesting client computer further including memory for storing commuter authorization information including the commuter authorization lifetime and a check-in value received from the granting license server when the granting license server grants the commuter authorization to the requesting client computer; and the granting license server further including memory for storing commuter authorization information including the commuter authorization lifetime and a check-in value when the granting license server grants the commuter authorization to the requesting client computer (Barber, col. 2, lines 3-54; col. 5, lines 31-67; col. 6, line 1 – col. 7, line 64; and col. 15, lines 10 – 55).

7. As to claims 5 and 14, Barber-Coley teaches the system and method wherein the requesting client computer programmed for returning the commuter authorization by setting its check-in value to a returned state and communicating a check-in message to the granting license server; and the granting license server further programmed for setting its check-in value to the returned state and incrementing its count of available allocations upon receipt of the check-in message (Barber, col. 15, lines 10-55).

8. As to claims 6 and 15, Barber-Coley teaches the system and method wherein if the commuter authorization is not returned prior to an expiration of the commuter authorization lifetime, at the expiration of the commuter authorization lifetime, the requesting client computer

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is further programmed for setting its check-in value to a returned state; and the granting license server is further programmed for setting its check-in value to the returned state and incrementing its count of available allocations (Barber, col. 2, lines 3-54; col. 5, lines 31-67; col. 6, line 1 – col. 7, line 64; and col. 15, lines 10 – 55).

9. As to claims 7 and 16, Barber-Coley teach a system and method wherein the requesting client computer programmed for enabling a user to select the computer authorization lifetime (Barber, col. 2, lines 3-54; col. 5, lines 31-67; col. 6, line 1 – col. 7, line 64; and col. 15, lines 10 – 55).

10. As to claims 8 and 17, Barber-Coley teach a system and method wherein the requesting client computer programmed for enabling a user to select the license server from which to request a commuter authorization (Coley, col. 4, line 1 – col. 5, line 30 and col. 8, line 54 – col. 9, line 61).

11. As to claims 9 and 18, Barber-Coley teach a system and method wherein the at least one license server comprising a pool of license servers, and the granting license server further programmed for communicating the commuter authorization lifetime and the check-in value stored in the granting license server to other license servers in the pool when the granting license server grants the commuter authorization to the requesting client computer, so that even if the granting license server should go down, another license server in the pool can act as the granting

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license server Coley, col. 4, line 1 – col. 5, line 30 and col. 8, line 54 – col. 9, line 61).

12. Claims 10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber-Coley as applied above, and further in view of McCurdy et al., US Pat. No. 5,177,222.

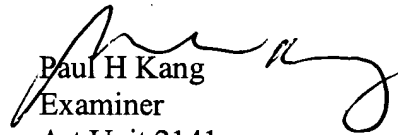
13. As to claims 10 and 19, Barber-Coley teach a system and method substantially as claimed. However, Barber-Coley do not explicitly teach a system and method wherein the requesting client computer further programmed for detecting attempts to tamper with its internal clock and invalidating the commuter authorization if tampering is detected. In the analogous field of electrical communications, McCurdy teaches a communication system comprising a tamper alarm system for tampering indication (McCurdy, Abstract and col. 3, line 43 – col. 5, line 38). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the tamper indicator as taught by McCurdy, into the software licensing system of Barber-Coley for the purpose of increasing system security.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul H Kang whose telephone number is (703) 308-6123. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 hour flex. First Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (703) 305-4003. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Paul H Kang
Examiner
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